



*Decision Memo*  
**Wind Caves Trailhead Expansion**  
*Logan Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest*  
*Cache County, Utah*  
**August 2020**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document details my decision regarding a proposal to expand the Wind Caves Trailhead. This will include increasing the parking to eliminate the need to park along U.S. Highway 89 and install a vault restroom.

The Wind Caves Trail is one of the most visited trails on the Logan Ranger District and receives year-round use due to the easy access from Highway 89 and proximity to Logan, Utah. The existing parking lot is often overflowing with vehicles, so visitors parallel park along Highway 89 creating traffic hazards with pedestrians crossing the highway. The lack of restroom facilities at the trailhead also results in a human waste problem. There are restrooms nearby in Guinavah Malibu Campground but access to them requires crossing the highway which exacerbates the highway safety problem. The lack of restrooms and parking is creating a sanitary and safety hazard to the public that needs to be addressed. The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache (UWC) Forest Plan requires that visitors not be exposed to human waste and visitor safety is provided for at developed recreation sites.

**Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: 57569**

**General Location: Wind Caves Trailhead is located approximately 8 miles east of Logan Utah along Highway 89.**

## **2.0 PROPOSED ACTION**

Briefly describe:

1. The Logan Ranger District is proposing to expand the parking at Wind Caves Trailhead by approximately 50% and install a double vault restroom.
2. The trail will be re-routed less than 100 feet to provide access from the new parking area.

## **2.1 DESIGN CRITERIA & MITIGATION MEASURES**

- During construction of the new facilities, access to the public will be limited.
- Any encroachments on U.S. Highway 89 will be coordinated with UDOT.
- Some excavated material will be wasted on or off site.
- Surface water captured on site will be properly drained from the new and existing parking areas.
- Current flows beneath the existing parking will need to be maintained and properly channeled to prevent storm water damage.

-Trees with boles or roots substantially damaged by construction activities will be removed to prevent future safety concerns within the trailhead area.

- Live trees will be retained as much as possible between the highway and improvements, to protect scenic views along the Logan Canyon Nation Scenic Byway.

- Best Management Practices (BMP's) to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds will be followed:

1. All existing infestations within/adjacent to project area should be treated prior to project implementation.
2. Do not stage equipment, materials, or crews in invasive plant populations.
3. All equipment should be cleaned and free of vegetation, soil, and debris prior to beginning work on National Forest.
4. Revegetation should be initiated as promptly as practical. Seed only where natural regeneration of desirable species is unlikely or is susceptible to or threatened by invasive or noxious plants. Seed mix will be approved by the Forest Service and certified weed free.
5. For at least three years after project completion, treat invading noxious weeds as needed on areas impacted by ground disturbing operations.

### **3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE**

My decision is to authorize the proposed action along with the required design criteria and mitigation measures as described in section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under 36 CFR 220.6 (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

The seven resource conditions that are considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement are discussed below. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion.

I have concluded there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

### **4.0 SCOPING**

This project was listed in in the Planning, Appeals and Litigation System Database (PALS), reviewed by a team of resource specialists in a National Environment Planning Act (NEPA) meeting, and field-reviews were conducted with specialists to the site.



## **5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY**

Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

G2.5-3 Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for the purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

## **6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION**

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

## **7.0 CONTACT PERSON**

For additional information about the project, contact David Ashby at david.ashby@usda.gov or 435-755-3620.



**Jennefer Parker**  
**District Ranger**  
**Logan Ranger District**

*August 4, 2020*  
**Date**

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